

NEOLYCAENA DeNICÉVILLE, 1890 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA,
LYCAENIDAE): PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES
UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1758

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DeNicéville described in detail the new genus *Neolycaena*, concluding "Type *Lycaena sinensis* Alphéraky." (*Butterflies of India, Burmah & Ceylon* 3 : 64, 1890). On the following page he discussed the species *Neolycaena sinensis* by giving a translation of the whole of Alphéraky's description. He then added:

"My knowledge of this species is confined to a single specimen taken by Lieutenant E. Y. Watson on 21 June 1885 at Gunduk, which is situated in the Sarakola Pass, to the N.E. of Quetta, Biluchistan. Half of this specimen has been bleached for examination of the neururation. The figure (*l.c.*, pl. 26, fig. 166) shows both sides of this specimen, which is in my own collection."

This half-specimen, a female with damaged abdomen, survives in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) collection, together with a further sixteen also taken in the mountains near Quetta by Evans, who pointed out that it is abundantly distinct from *sinensis* (see *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 36 : 207, No. 92; 1932), and had just named it *Neolycaena connae* (*Identification of Indian Butterflies*: 247; 1932). The male holotype of *connae* Evans is in the type collection at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

It is clear that *connae* Evans was the species which deNicéville had before him when introducing *Neolycaena*. It is arguable, however, that his subsequent full quotation of the original description validates his positive nomination of *sinensis* as the type-species. (The type-locality of *sinensis* Alphéraky 1881, *Hor. ent. Ross.* 16 : 383, pl. 14, fig. 7, is Koulja, Sinkiang, 1200 miles from Quetta).

No recent publications can be found on this small genus, to provide a basis on which to stabilise nomenclature, but a decision on the fixation of the type-species is desirable in order to avoid future uncertainty. No other generic name is applicable to either species.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore, in accordance with Article 70(a) of the Rules of Nomenclature, requested either (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the genus *Neolycaena* deNicéville, 1890, made prior to the ruling now proposed and, having done so, to designate as the type-species of that genus the species *Neolycaena connae* Evans, 1932;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, the generic name *Neolycaena* deNicéville, 1890, *Butterflies of India, Burmah & Ceylon* 3 : 64 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Neolycaena connae* Evans, 1932, *Identification of Indian Butterflies*: 247;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, the specific name *connae* Evans, 1932, as published in the binomen *Neolycaena connae* (type-species of *Neolycaena* deNicéville, 1890);

- or (1) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Neolycaena* deNicéville, 1890, *Butterflies of India, Burmah & Ceylon* **3** : 64 (gender : feminine), type-species, by original designation, *Lycaena sinensis* Alphéraky, 1881, *Hor. ent. Ross.* **16** : 383;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *sinensis* Alphéraky, 1881, as published in the binomen *Lycaena sinensis* (type-species of *Neolycaena* deNicéville, 1890).